

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 10 are amended herein. Claims 13 and 14 are canceled. Claims 15-23 are added. Accordingly, Claims 1-10, 12, and 15-23 will be pending after entry of this Amendment.

Support for the claim amendments is found throughout the specification as originally filed. Support for the amendments to Claims 1 and 10 is found at least at paragraph [0063] of the specification, FIG. 5, and original Claim 5.

Support for new Claim 15 is found at least in paragraph [0063] of the specification, FIG. 5, and original Claims 1 and 7. Support for new Claim 16 is found in original Claim 2. Support for new Claim 17 is found in original Claim 3. Support for new Claim 18 is found in original Claim 4. Support for new Claim 19 is found in original Claim 5. Support for new Claim 20 is found in original Claim 6.

Support for new Claim 21 is found at least in paragraph [0063] of the specification, FIG. 5, and original Claim 1. Support for new Claim 22 is found at least in paragraph [0063] of the specification, FIG. 5, and original Claim 1. Support for new Claim 23 is found at least in paragraph [0063] of the specification, FIG. 5, and original Claims 1 and 7. No new matter is added.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicants concurrently submit a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and pay the required fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). Applicants also respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 3, 2008 and request the Examiner's review and acknowledgement of the references listed therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 7 and 13-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to include the features of claims 13 and 14, respectively. Applicants have also added claim 15, which includes the features of claim 7 and its base claim.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,682,890 to de Macario (hereinafter "de Macario"), U.S. Patent No. 5,290,705 to Davis (hereinafter "Davis"), and optionally in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,876,226 to Böcker (hereinafter "Böcker").

While Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to recite the allowable features of claims 13 and 14, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

The Office Action also rejects Claims 1-6, 8-10, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over de Macario, Davis, and U.S. Patent No. 6,071,748 to Modlin (hereinafter "Modlin") or U.S. Patent No. 5,985,214 to Stylli (hereinafter "Stylli").

While Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 10 to recite the allowable features of claims 13 and 14, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests entry of this Amendment, reconsideration of all the rejections, and allowance of the application with Claims 1-10, 12, and 15-23 presented herein. If a telephone conversation with Applicant's representative would be helpful to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant urges the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Applicant believes that no fees are due other than excess claims fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(h) and the Information Disclosure Statement fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p). If additional fees are required, the Director is authorized to charge any fees associated with this submission to our Deposit Account, No. 04-1105, Reference 65689DIV3(43382). Any overpayment should be credited to said Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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